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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,542	01/29/2001	Hideo Okano	01045VLH	9601

1933 7590 08/31/2005

FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC  
220 5TH AVE FL 16  
NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708

EXAMINER

WOZNIAK, JAMES S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2655

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/771,542

Applicant(s)

OKANO, HIDEO

Examiner

James S. Wozniak

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,13-21 and 23-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11 and 18-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 13-17, and 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. In response to the office action from 3/3/2005, the applicant has submitted an amendment, filed 6/21/2005, amending claims 1, 2, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 23, while adding claims 25-26, canceling claims 12 and 22, and arguing to traverse the art rejection based on the limitation regarding updating a data table based upon information sent from an external apparatus (*Amendment, Page 20*). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, however the previous rejection is maintained, altered only with respect to the amended claims and due to the reasons listed below in the response to arguments.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:

With respect to **Claims 1 and 15**, the applicant argues that Holloran et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,369,573*) fails to teach changing an ID data table by communicating with an external apparatus (*amendment, page 20*), however the examiner notes that Holloran discloses changing a data table stored within a computer system by utilizing an external typing apparatus (Col. 4, Lines 53-57; Col. 5, Lines 16-21). The typing apparatus disclosed by Holloran is externally utilized by a user to communicate ID data, and thus, is not located within a computer that internally contains data

table information and related applications (*abstract and col. 7, Lines 1-10*). Therefore, the keyboard disclosed by Holloran meets the limitations of the claimed “external apparatus” and claim 1 remains rejected.

The examiner further notes that Kato (*U.S. Patent: 5,974,005*) teaches a computer apparatus for voice recording that is connected to an external key-based operation device by an I/O bus (Col. 4, Lines 45-57). Thus, when taken in combination with Holloran, Kato provides the teaching of the claimed connecting means.

With respect to claims **13 and 23**, the applicant’s arguments have been fully considered, but are moot with respect to the new grounds of rejection listed below and necessitated by the claim amendments.

The dependent claims are argued as further limiting rejected independent claims, and thus, also remain rejected.

### ***Priority***

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 1/31/2000. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2000-022752 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1, 4, 15, and 17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holloran et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,369,573*) in view of Kato (*U.S. Patent: 5,974,005*).

With respect to **Claims 1 and 15**, Holloran discloses structured document syntax management comprising:

A data table (*figure 1, element 102*) for storing a plurality of ID data for predetermined ID items (column 2, lines 59-68);

ID data selecting means for selecting arbitrary ID data (selecting ID numbers) from the ID data of the predetermined ID item stored in the data table (column 2, lines 21-24);

Data file creating means for creating a data file (document created) by adding the ID data selected by the ID data selecting means (selecting ID numbers) as header information (heading; column 2, lines 21-24);

Recording means for recording said the data file in a recording medium (table record; column 3, lines 45-50); and

Changing means (created new information; column 4, lines 53-57) for communicating with an external apparatus connected to the voice recording and reproducing apparatus (abstract) and for changing the ID data stored in the data table based upon information sent from the

external apparatus (assigns new ID information; column 4, lines 53-57 and column 5, lines 16-21), but Holloran does not specifically disclose conversion means nor a means for connecting a voice recording and conversion apparatus to an external device.

Kato discloses an information processing apparatus and method enabling editing and data tracks by using a data table comprising:

Recording means for recording the data file in a recording medium (recording data in a CD: column 5, lines 12-15);

A computer apparatus for voice recording that is connected to an external key-based operation device by an I/O bus (Col. 4, Lines 45-57); and

Conversion means (analog-to-digital converter; figure 2, element 29) for converting inputted voice signals into digitized voice data (column 5, lines 8-9), which allows the digital data to be compressed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Holloran's apparatus such that it comprises conversion means, to record data in the mini disc in a compressed manner (column 5, lines 8-19).

Regarding **claims 4 and 17**, Holloran discloses the apparatus wherein said changing means can change ID data identifying work type (performer table record), which is stored in the data table (column 3, lines 45-55).

6. **Claims 2, 13, 14, 16, and 23-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holloran et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,369,573*) in view of Kato (*U.S. Patent: 5,974,005*), and further in view of Hirasawa (*U.S. Patent: 6,473,797*).

With respect to **Claims 2 and 16**, Holloran in view of Kato teaches the voice recording apparatus utilizing an ID data table changing means as applied to Claims 1 and 15. Holloran in view of Kato does not specifically disclose a means for automatically changing ID data in response to an external device connection, however Hirasawa teaches such an automatic ID changing means (*Col. 19, Line 30- Col. 20, Line 2*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Holloran in view of Kato with the teachings of Hirasawa in order to free a user from troublesome setting when a new ID needs to be entered (*Hirasawa, Col. 1, Lines 44-53*).

Regarding **claims 13 and 23**, Holloran in view of Kato discloses everything as claimed in claim 1. In addition, Holloran discloses structured document syntax management, comprising:

Transmitting means for transmitting ID data to the data recording and reproducing apparatus (column 2, lines 59-68), wherein the changing means changes the data table (creates a new table) in accordance with the ID data (ID information) transmitted from the information processing apparatus (column 4, lines 53-59 with column 5, lines 16-21 with the abstract), but Holloran in view of Kato lacks the device selection means.

Hirasawa, however, teaches a terminal retrieval means for selecting a recording device for obtaining ID data (*Col. 19, Line 5- Col. 20, Line 2; and VTR, Fig. 1*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Holloran in view of Kato with the teachings of Hirasawa in order to free a user from troublesome setting when a new ID needs to be entered (*Hirasawa, Col. 1, Lines 44-53*).

**Claims 14 and 24** contain subject matter similar to Claims 4 and 17, and thus, are rejected for the same reasons.

With respect to **Claims 25 and 26**, Hirasawa teaches the automatic ID changing means as applied to Claims 2 and 16.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

7. **Claims 5-11 and 18-21** are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons allowance:

As for independent claims 5, 8 and 18, they recite an information processing apparatus and recording medium for which a plurality of external voice recording and reproducing apparatuses and mediums for digitizing and recording inputted signals in a recording medium are connectable. Prior art such as Terui and Kato discloses similar apparatuses and recording mediums, but fails to teach the recited apparatus and recording medium wherein it comprises a connection number allocation means for, after connecting the external voice recording and reproducing USB apparatuses to the information processing apparatus, allocating a connection number to each of the connected external data recording and reproducing apparatuses in combination with first selecting a connection number and ID to further choose a voice recording device for changing its associated control data. Dependent claims 6-7, 9-11 and 19-21 are allowed because they further limit their parent claims.

*Conclusion*

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Takahashi et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,887,193*)- teaches a system that assigns IDs to connected multimedia devices.

Okano (*U.S. Patent: 6,741,964*)- teaches a method for amending a connection table with an identification code when a device is connected.


Okano (*JP02001014264A*)- teaches a method for changing operating data based on a device ID number.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7632. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00, F, 7:30-4, Off Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James S. Wozniak  
8/25/2005



W. R. YOUNG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER